

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04933 031700Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7891
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ICRC, CD
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN CHAD

REF: A. GENEVA 4822; B. NDJAMENA 1292

1. MISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED ICRC APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF
ITS PROGRAM IN CHAD IN FORM OF "SITUATION IN CHAD, REPORT
NO. 1" COVERING MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1978.

2. REPORT BASICALLY PROVIDES BACKGROUND TO ICRC'S CHADIAN
MISSION AS GIVEN REF A, WITH A FEW CHANGES AND ADDITIONS
AS FOLLOWS. REPORT STATES THAT FROLINAT MADE INITIAL
APPEAL IN MID-DECEMBER FOR ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING
SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AND SICK PRISONERS TO NDJAMENA. CHADIAN
GOVERNMENT ALSO OFFERED ICRC EVERY ASSISTANCE IN FACILI-
TATING ITS MISSION. REPORT ADDS TO LOCATIONS OF OPERATION
GIVEN IN REF A TOWN OF KIRDIMI. VISITS TO PRISONERS BE-
GAN ON MARCH 20 AND, AS OF THE END OF THE REPORTING
PERIOD, 1,500 OF THE ESTIMATED 2,500 PRISONERS HAD BEEN
VISITED AT THE FIVE LOCATIONS. THE ICRC HAS BEEN ASKED
BY FROLINAT TO PROVIDE ALL FOOD AND MEDICAL CARE REQUIRED
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BY THE PRISONERS. ICRC DURING PERIOD MARCH 13 THROUGH 15
MADE SIX FLIGHTS TO FAYA-LARGEAU, BY DC-4 LEASED FROM
COMPAGNIE AIR TCHAD, TRANSPORTING 37,350 KILOGRAMS OF
RICE, MILLET, EDIBLE OILS, SUGAR, SALT, DRY TOMATOES,
VEGETABLES, AND TEA. IT PLANS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
40 TONS OF RELIEF GOODS EACH MONTH, WITH 40 TONS IN
STANDBY FOR "UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS".

3. ITS FIELD TEAMS ARE COMPOSED OF A SIX-MAN DELEGATION STATIONED IN NDJAMENA, AND A TEN-MAN TEAM AT FAYA LARGEAU, INCLUDING TWO VISITING TEAMS CONSISTING OF AN ICRC DELEGATE, A DOCTOR AND A NURSE. IN ADDITION ICRC PROVIDES THE THREE-MAN (SWISS) CREW FOR THE TRANSPORT DC-4, AND ANOTHER THREE-MAN (SWISS) CREW FOR A PIPER AIRCRAFT TO CONVEY TEAMS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PRISONER CONCENTRATIONS IN THE FIELD. IT ESTIMATES THAT AS OF APRIL 1 IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO AUGMENT THESE PERSONNEL WITH FOUR MORE ICRC STAFF MEMBERS AND A SWISSAIR AIRCRAFT DISPATCHER.

4. THE BUDGET FOR ICRC'S CHADIAN OPERATION FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1 THROUGH MAY 31 IS SET AT 1.9 MILLION SWISS FRANCS, COMPRISED OF 679,000 FOR OPERATING EXPENSES, 644,000 FOR AIRCRAFT, AND 577,000 FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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